THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL); (a) I accompanied the Prime Minister to Kuala Lumpur for the first Summit Conference of the G-15. The Summit adopted a Joint Communique putting forward its point of view on major international economic issues and also embodying several decisions to promote South-South cooperation through specific projects. It also decided on a series of follow up measures to coordinate future activities of the G-15. The venue of the next Conference is Caracas (Venezuela).

(b) The Summit has appointed a Steering Committee comprising the Foreign Ministers of Malaysia, Senegal and Venezuela to coordinate activities of the G-15 amd to consider the setting up of a permanent support mechanism. Individual countries have agreed to coordinate follow up action on South-South cooperation projects initiated by them.

Indictment of Government by Amnesty International

220. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Amnesty International in its 1990 report has severely indicted Government for violation of human rights;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL); (a) and (b) The 1990 Amnesty International Report contains some critical remarks about the human rights situation in 142 countries or territories including India. Among the allegations made are that "several thousand political prisoners" have been held without charge or trial, that torture and ill-treatment was widespread and that 'several hundred' may have been extra-judicially executed.

(c) While. India has a credible record pertaining to human rights the Amnesty International Report does not present a correct picture of the human rights situation in India. One of the basic deficiences in the Report is that it takes virtually no cognizance of the fact of terrorism and does not distinguish betwten "political prisoners" and detainees involved in terrorist activities. In regard to detainees, the Report fails to refer to the protection afforded by Tribunals. In fact, the Amnesty Report is Silent on the political and judicial framework which ensure protection of human rights in India.

Talks during the visit of Sri Lankan fore, ign Secretary

221. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA;
DR. BAPU KALDATE;
SHRl SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary of Sri Lankan Governmtnt recently visited India to apprise the Government with the prevailing situation in Sri Lanka after the intensification of the activities of LTTE in Sri Lanka:

(b) if so, what was the nature of the issues discussed at the talks; and

(c) whether Government's mediation was sought in the matter, if so, what is the response of Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary explained the events leading to the present conflict in Sri Lanka and stressed that the hostilities were not directed against the Tamil community but against 'terrorism'. Government conveyed its concerns about civilian casualties, safety and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka, increased influx of refugees into India and the possibility of